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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Amended) Apparatus for the detection of microbes on a non-living surface or in air or liquid comprising:
 - a. means for directing discrete regions of electromagnetic radiation towards a the sample, said means adapted to emit radiation energies capable of exciting more than at least one intrinsic microbial fluorophore;
 - b. multiple detectors at least one detector for electromagnetic radiation capable of converting the emitted, reflected and scattered or reflected/scattered radiation resultant from the fluorescence of said microbial fluorophores into electrical signals, said detectors detector adapted by means of optical filters to detect electromagnetic radiation at wavelengths above 320 nm to separately detect and thus distinguish between the minima and maxima associated with the fluorescence emission of said microbial fluorophores; fluorophores, the reflected excitation electromagnetic energies, the electromagnetic energies scattered by the sample, and the electromagnetic energies resultant from the background; and
 - c. means for analyzing the electrical signals corresponding to the fluorescence of the intrinsic microbial fluorophores, and the reflected/scattered excitation energies to determine the presence of microbes.
2. (Withdrawn) The method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the electromagnetic waves are directed towards the microbes in time-modulated pulses.
3. (Withdrawn) The apparatus defined in Claim 1 wherein the means for directing electromagnetic radiation includes means for time-modulating the electromagnetic radiation.